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Home of the OPFOR

Nov 7, 2002

11th ACR soldier attends "Stryker" press conference

By Staff Sgt.
Laurence Lang

On February 27th at Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
2002, the Army formally And with the devel-

battlefield is shifting.

The Opposing Forces soldiers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, head to the field every rotation knowing that they will have successful missions.

With a home court advantage they can usually predict which way their enemy will turn and what they will do when engaged in battle.

But as the world changes, soldiers need to be prepared to face the challenges ahead.



Photo of the "Stryker" Vehicle

The Stryker, the combat vehicle for the Army's Interim Brigade Combat Teams (IBCTs), is a highly deployable wheeled armored vehicle that combines firepower, battlefield mobility, survivability and versatility, with reduced logistics. Stryker is a 19-ton wheeled armored vehicle that will provide the Army a family of ten different vehicles.

The Stryker can

named its new Interim component of the Stryker, the
Armored vehicle the OPFOR way of fighting
"Stryker" in a ceremony the enemy on the NTC

See Stryker, Pg 10

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Trench prepares soldiers for battle

By Staff Sgt.
Laurence Lang and
1st Lt.
David Allen

As the possibility of war still exists, soldiers are training harder than ever to ensure success on the battlefield. Soldiers are sent to the National Training Center to face the Opposing Forces of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and receive probably the best training they can get.



Photo by Sgt. David Vanderbeek
Aerial photo of the trenchline.

Normally, the soldiers that are on rotation here know what to expect.

See Trench, Pg 6

The Colonel's Stable

Col.

Joseph A. Moore Jr.
60th Colonel of the 11th ACR

Blackhorse troopers! We are coming off one of a rotation noted for its many firsts: first same day retrain of a battle in many years, first rotation in 11 years with a real live trench fight, and the first time since Brigade operations began that we were still fighting on Training Day 10! I want to thank all of you for putting together a great training event for a unit that is only weeks away from deploying to Kuwait. Their success if things heat up in Iraq will be a tribute to the Blackhorse troopers!

Next month we have 1st Cavalry Division training and they are bringing all their toys. You will fight

Longbow Apaches, M1A2 SEP tanks, and lots of Javelins. We will all have to be at our best to beat these guys. So enjoy your CMH and Comp weekends because we ride again against a far larger opponent next month.

I know many of you are putting together your holiday plans. We have three full weeks of block leave coming in December and I want everyone who can to take advantage of the opportunity. Please plan plenty of time to travel. Do not attempt to cover too much ground and get yourself in a jam. We lose too many great soldiers or family members in accidents while driving and



tired. Take your time getting to and from leave.

Allons! Kill them all!
COL Moore
60th Colonel

Soldier's actions saves lives on Fort Irwin road

By Spc.
Margarita Rivero

For Spc. Raymond Morse, Support and Transportation Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, driving a friend home was supposed to be a routine trip to Barstow and back.

But this time, there was nothing routine about the drive, when a soldier turned hero saved the lives of four people who

were in a car accident on Fort Irwin road, Oct 25.

At approximately 10:30 p.m., Morse could see a set of headlights coming towards him in the opposite lane, but as the car came closer, it suddenly swerved onto the shoulder of the road and sharply turned back into Morse's lane losing control and almost crashing head on into Morse's car.

The car swerved back into the correct

lane, drove into the dirt on the side of the road, where it flipped and rolled several times.

Morse was in disbelief at what he had just witnessed as he pulled onto the side of the road and rushed to the accident site.

"I didn't know if anyone was hurt or if there was imminent danger," Morse said.

"All kinds of thoughts ran through my head as my friend and I

got out of our car to offer assistance." According to Morse, a young girl involved in the accident approached him in a nervous and panicked state informing him that there were others in the car.

Once Morse got to the car he noticed that the passengers were okay, except for the baby who wasn't breathing or responding.

See Hero, Pg 6

Blackhorse 7 Sends.....

Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Flood
15th RCSM of the Blackhorse

Well, here we are again at the end of another great rotation. I want to tell you right up front that I have never been more proud of you and to be a part of this great regiment than I am today.

You pulled off some things this rotation that when I was first told about them I said to myself, "NO WAY", well actually I had another word between the "no" and "way" but this is kind of a family rag and I am trying to clean up my act (besides, all you evil minded readers probably knew I said more than that any way). The work that went into every fight, the causeway, and the trench was unbe-

lievable.

Folks that visited had only positive comments about your ability to fight and professionalism and could not believe the levels you went to to allow this brigade the training opportunity that you did. But the key to the whole drill on this rotation is this; what this brigade learned here they may have to put to use and if and when that happens their success, and they will be successful, will be the result of what they learned here at the National Training Center taking on the Blackhorse, the most lethal fighting force in the world!

I know I tell you this

every month but I'm telling you again, GREAT JOB!!!

Well, I tell you I'm trying to think of some stuff to rip somebody about but my second job is keeping me away from the land of the Blackhorse more than I thought it would.

So some, if not most of you are getting away with murder because I don't have eyes on you. But I also have to tell you that as I watched you in action from the LEAD 9I side of the fence, I was proud to see that every one of you confirmed what I have known for a long time. That you are



true professionals and your dedication to what you do and conduct is the best in the army. Just remember, as Ol' Arnold Schmitzburger once said, "I'LL BE BACK" and when I do, I'll be looking to make up for lost time.

Treat 'em rough
Blackhorse 7 Out

2002 Roadmarch to Barstow

December 9th

We need YOU to
help raise funds for
Barstow's Veterans!

-Start at Painted rocks

-Stop over night: Old Ft. Irwin Road

December 10th

-Begin last leg at dawn

-End at the Veteran's Home of Barstow

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2/11 hosts Ironman Competition

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Laurence Lang

Soldiers are pushed mentally and physically on a daily basis to be the best at what they do. They are challenged to do their best. On Oct 9, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment challenged soldiers to push themselves even further by hosting the 2nd Ironman competition. For 50 soldiers the competition not only forced them to challenge their peers but also forced them to challenge themselves.

The competitors got into their respective heats. The heats were made up of 20 competitors. The competitors then had to complete 150 push-ups in 10 minutes and then 150 sit-ups in 10 minutes.

Upon the completion of this, the competitor had to put on a 37-lb rucksack and get to Range 5. Once there, they shot 40 rounds at paper targets to qualify. After qualifying, the participant had to put their rucksacks back on and hustle to the troop pool where they swam 50 meters. At the conclusion of the swim, where fatigue has finally set in the soldier must muster up all their energy, put their rucksack back on and move to the finish line. Once across the finish line, 30 seconds will be deducted from the overall time for every shot missed while attempting to qualify. According to Capt. Jerem Swenddal, OIC for the Ironman competition, they held the competition for whoever wanted to

participate. They had a lot of participants from outside the Regiment as well.

"This is a great way to show esprit de corps and participate in an event that will challenge a person physically as well as mentally,"



Spc. Harley Castro, Troop H, 2/11 performs the pushup portion of the Ironman Competition.

said Swenddal.

For most, the biggest challenge is the fatigue and muscle failure as the competition continues on.

"You can see when the competitors start to tire," said Swenddal. "They mostly get the burn in their arms after all the pushups. But the competition was strong and people kept on pushing through the pain," he added.

Swenddal encourages everyone to participate in the event. "It allows you to push yourself to the limits and see how well you can do and how far you can push yourself," he said.

But not only is it a way to challenge yourself, earning the title of Ironman could push a soldier over the top when competing for a pro-

motion or job.

For Pvt. Edward Randall, Troop G, 2/11, the feeling of finishing such a competition for the second time was a satisfying one.

"I feel like I have accomplished something worthwhile," he said.

Although competing and finishing was a personal victory for Randall, working towards promotion was his motivator in finishing the competition.

"I feel they look at you differently when you have succeeded in this competition. It helps me on my boards and with selections for school especially when there are a limited number of slots available," said Randall.

Although this type of competition is attainable, competitors spend months training up for such an event.

For Randall, who spends his free time working out, he focused on bettering himself on the events that he would have to perform in preparing himself for the event.

According to Swenddal, putting together such an event takes a lot of participation from a lot of people. It required coordination and cooperation among various staff sections and all the troops.

"Each unit has a piece and has participated well whether providing scales for the weigh-in, road guards and life guards, food for the participants, range safeties, or simply coordinating the arms room for

See Ironman, pg 5



Pfc. Cheston Dorn, Anti-tank Company, 2nd Sqdn, 11th ACR participates in the marksmanship portion of the Ironman competition.

Ironman from pg 4

weapons issue that morning," he said.

"All the sections and units have come together in amazing coordination in spite of rotation, EIB, and a hectic schedule," he added.

Crossing the finish line for most was a victory they had strived for, but for a few it was a crushing blow but it showed them what they needed to do to make next year a success.

The Ironman is held twice a year and everyone can continually compete.

"I encourage everyone to participate and do their best. The personal satisfaction of finishing this competition is very rewarding," said Swendal.



Soldiers competing in the Ironman competition are required to do 150 situps in 10 minutes in order to move on to the next event.

IRONMAN WINNERS

1st Place

SSG Hugo Manzo

2nd Place

CPL Nathan Perez

3rd Place

SGT Jason Critzer

SPC Michael Harvey

SSG Aaron Hoelzer

SGT Scott Havir

SPC Perry Cooper

PFC Andrew Miller

SPC Julio Berro

SGT Aaron Christensen

SPC Harley Castro

PFC Chris Daniels

PFC Said Hernandez

SSG Jacob Diaz

SGT Richard Valle

SPC Sonny Ruiz

PFC Justin Robertson

SGT Ruben Chuquichanca

PV2 Jesus Acosta

PV2 Ricardo Santos

PV2 Eric Podosec

SPC Virgin Binning

PFC Cheston Doran

PV2 Viet Vo

SGT Rodolfo Castro, Jr.

SPC Rodrigo Lopez

SPC Kelly Messer

SGT Fernando Gonzalez

SPC Jesse Cox

PFC Merced Lara

PFC Russell Suits

SPC Vichosea Diras

1SG Clifford Henderson

SGT Vinh Pham

PFC Timothy Viera

SPC Donald Jump

SPC James Compton

1LT William Herrington

PV2 Jesse Faulkner

PVT Edward Randall

2LT Kwasi Jenkins

1LT Gabriel Vargas

PFC Andrew Wilchuck

SPC Juan Deltoropulido

PFC Ivan Rosa

Trench, from pg 1

pect; dust, fatigue and great training. But this time the 11th ACR gave them something out of the ordinary.

What the BLUFOR soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division received was realistic training on a trench complex with dismounted soldiers.

According to 1st Lt. David Allen, 58th Engineers, the approximately 3,800-meter trench consisted of nearly 60 individual dismounted bunkers and fighting positions.

He also mentioned that there were approximately forty vehicle fighting positions and scrapes backstopping the trench with several positions tied directly into the trenchline.

Forward of the trench was a complex blocking obstacle belt consisting of mine fields both forward and behind an 1,800-meter category III anti-tank ditch which exceeded 8-feet in depth at certain points.

Building a trench of this magnitude was no easy task, but with teamwork and units supporting each other they were able to complete the project in two weeks.

"We had 2nd and 3rd platoons going full speed to complete this mission as well as the support of the Regimental Support Squadrons SEO shop providing the procurement of rental equipment and providing all the Class IV support," said Allen. "This was truly a team effort."

But the trench was not the only part of the project that they had to deal with. They also built a tunnel, which consisted of cutting away a huge spur of the mountain wrapping around the north side of the Chili Bowl proper. Once the approximately 100-foot by 100-foot section was cut away it was leveled.

According to Allen, the tunnel consists of sections of reinforced concrete pieced together to form a T-shaped tunnel with manholes at each end.

Once complete soil was placed back over to make it appear as if nothing had ever happened.

"The intent of the trench and the tunnel was to offer different battle scenarios focusing on a dismounted enemy," said Allen.

The 3rd ID soldiers were the first to get the chance to do battle within the trench.

According to Allen, although the first battle was long and drawn out, the experiences from the first engagement combined with the after action reviews and guidance of the Operations group, provided the BLUFOR with the tools they needed to successfully defeat the trenchline defense.

"No other brigade in recent history has gotten so much training on breach tactics than this one," Allen said. "Although it is not necessarily a good day for the OPR when a breach is executed by the BLUFOR, the benefits for the Army as a whole are much greater."

Hero from Pg 2

Morse knew that time was now their enemy. If he didn't get that baby rushed to a hospital soon, it would not survive and there was no time for help to come to them.

Morse immediately told his friend to stay with the other two passengers and quickly put the mom and baby into his car and rushed them to the post hospital. Arriving at the front gate, he informed the

gate guards of what had happened and proceeded to the hospital.

"I kept praying to God that the baby would be okay. I was concerned for the baby's well-being," Morse said.

Once Morse got the baby and the mother to the emergency room, the mother and the baby were immediately attended. The baby was flown to the Las Vegas Hospital where he was put on a respirator and doctors gave him

a fifty-fifty chance.

Once he knew they were being taken care of he immediately rushed back to the scene of the accident to make sure the others were ok. By the time he got there, the Military Police and the Fire Department were already on hand taking care of the rest of the passengers.

On November 4, 2002, Morse received a phone call and heard news he thought was almost inconceivable yet he

knew it was a miracle. The baby was going to be home in about 14 days.

Thanks to the training the Army has prepared Morse with, it helped him to keep the mother calm all the way to the hospital. The manner in which he reacted to the situation has helped to save a life.

"I don't feel like I did anything heroic. I saw people who needed help and I helped," Morse said.

Downed helicopter to be displayed at Fort Irwin

Story by
Staff Sgt.
Laurence Lang

When it comes to history, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment has their fair share to talk about. The Blackhorse never forgets where they came from nor do they forget the soldiers of the past.

The 11th ACR is once again doing its part in preserving a piece of history so that future Blackhorse soldiers and their families will be able to see a part of the organization that they represent.

Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Yano, Air Cavalry Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, was one of the soldiers who helped make the Blackhorse what it is today by showing that putting others before yourself is what being a soldier is all about.

While serving Near Bien Hao, Republic of Vietnam in January 1969, Yano distinguished

himself while serving with the Air Cavalry Troop.

Yano was performing the duties of crew chief aboard the troop's command-and-control helicopter during action against enemy forces entrenched in dense jungle.

From an exposed position in the face of intense small arms and anti-aircraft fire he delivered suppressive fire upon the enemy forces and marked their positions with smoke and white phosphorous grenades, thus enabling



Yano's helicopter in its current condition.

his troop commander to direct accurate and effective artillery fire against the hostile emplacements.

A grenade, exploding prematurely, covered him with burning phosphorous, and left him

severely wounded.

Flaming fragments within the helicopter caused supplies and ammunition

to detonate. Dense white smoke filled the air-



Sgt. 1st Class
Rodney Yano

craft, obscuring the pilot's vision and causing him to lose control. Although having the use of only one arm and being partially blinded by the initial explosion, Yano completely disregarded his welfare and began hurling blazing ammunition from the helicopter.

In so doing, he inflicted additional wounds upon himself, yet he persisted until the danger was past.

Yano's indomitable courage and profound concern for his comrades averted loss of life and additional injury to the rest of the crew.

He was 25 years of age when he gave his life on January 1st 1969, near Bien Hao, Republic

of Vietnam. In honor of his courageous acts the very helicopter where these actions took place will be restored and placed in the Vietnam Memorial Park at Fort Irwin, California.

For Chief Warrant Officer 3 Richard Bebb, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, this will be no light undertaking.

As the only Aviation Warrant Officer in the Regiment, it only seems fitting that Bebb would get the daunting responsibility of restoring the helicopter.

The helicopter that arrived from New York in September will, according to Bebb, take approximately six to eight months to restore.

The restoration will be purely cosmetic, leaving the helicopter in its current non flying status.

"I'm glad to have the opportunity to be a part of this. This is a great way to bring back a part of Regimental history," Bebb said.

- Check out the updated 11th ACR Website featuring unit, reenlistment, and marathon pages, along with other great links at www.irwin.army.mil/11ACR

Ironhorse Soldiers Selected for All-Army Sports

Story by
2nd Lt. Douglas Robinson
H H T, 1/11 A C R

With all of the stress and rigors of Army life, one of the greatest challenges for a soldier is to be able to compete in organized athletics.

Spc. Eric Cortez and 1st Lt. Nathan Whitlock, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, have excelled in this area by being selected to attend the All-Army Soccer and All-Army Rugby camps, respectively.

All-Army sports camps are held annually. The agenda for every All-Army camp is similar; out of hundreds of applicants, only a handful is selected to attend the camp.

Life during this initial phase of the program is like that at a professional sports combine, where each athlete's level of tal-

ent and physical fitness is closely assessed. The numbers are cut down further, and the survivors make up the team that will compete against the All-Marine Corps, All-Air Force, All-Navy, and All-Coast Guard teams in a week-long tournament.

Following this tournament, players from each team are selected for the Armed Forces Combined Team, which battles against regional champions in the National Tournament.

Cortez currently with the Mortar platoon, is among the 25 out of 100 players selected to attend the All-Army Soccer Camp. An aggressive goalkeeper, this is the third consecutive year Cortez has been chosen to attend the camp. He has competed on the Post Championship Team for three years, and he played four years in high school.

During his senior year, he led his team to the California State Championship. "It's my favorite thing to do," said Cortez. "I plan

on playing for the rest of my Army career and beyond." Cortez is currently in the camp initial screening phase.

Whitlock, the outgoing 1/11 Support Platoon Leader, is one of 40 individuals that were selected to attend the All-Army Rugby Camp at Fort Leonard Wood. While at camp, he earned a spot at the tight-head prop position on the 22-man All-Army Rugby Team.

Whitlock played for three years on the Ohio State Rugby Football Club while attending, and for the Scioto Valley Rugby Club, (now a member of Major League Rugby) for a year after graduation. "There is no feeling like it," said Whitlock. "It is just simply a great sport."

Whitlock is currently the president of the Blackhorse Rugby Football Club on post. The rotationally sensitive club meets Monday and Thursday afternoons at 5:30 p.m. and Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.



BO.....

Trick or Treaters visit the Troop B, Bandits haunted house October 24th. 1st Squadron hosted it's annual Halloween party. Soldiers got to partake in horse rides, games and of course haunted houses created by the soldiers of the squadron.

Chaplain' s corner

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.)

Dennis Newton
Regimental Chaplain

So much of our lives is built upon the foundation of what we think we know. We grow up in a family and maybe they stay together or they divorce, but we at least have some type of a support group. This family is located somewhere in the good old USA.

We grow to think of the situations in which we live as normal and expected. We may have diminished expectations if we have anything less.

And you joined the Army for your own reasons. It's a shock to some to have your life changed by joining a different sub-culture of America.

The Army has a

need to take us from time to time to out of the way exotic places. Places which may not be as fortunate as our land.

In my 20 plus years of serving, I have spent time in Africa, Southwest Asia, Asia, and Europe. I have seen some beautiful places and truly exotic places, but some of the most haunting are the conditions in which the citizens of others places live. In Africa I expected to see the poor and starving and I did meet them and we did try to help feed them at their food kitchens.

But it's the other places where I was more shocked. I had heard that all the people in Saudi Arabia were cared for by the oil money. I guess that has changed because I saw the neglected and the needy there.

In Korea I found homeless and destitute people in greater numbers than I have found them elsewhere. In Europe I found many places in which I would drive through neighborhoods which were worse than any I have seen in America and I have been in 47 of the 50 states.

I have seen that we don't have it so bad even when we are in the worst of ways in our country. We are truly blessed by the people and the resources we have at our disposal.

I didn't see TV, refrigerators, and washing machines in the place I went in Somalia. I didn't see people bathing regularly in most of these places. I couldn't even say they looked happy. Most of the conditions seem to

just allow survival.

We sometimes say we are just surviving, but it looks to me like we are focused on only our problems.

It's time to take stock of all we have and we have so much. We are a people of truly great wealth in the world. Oh, we say we are not wealthy, we are not so prosperous, we are not so blessed. But let me show you the world around you. Open your eyes and view all the blessings you have. All the good things we celebrate. All of the accomplishments we have achieved. We are truly blessed and it is time for us to be thankful.

God bless you all. And know he surely has and may you have a truly thankful and Happy Thanksgiving.

NCO' s train to retain an Army of one

By Sgt.

David vanderbeek

Five days of fast and furious training, nightly quizzes and homework and the will to retain an Army of One makes for a fine reenlistment NCO. Company level retention NCO's are everyday sergeants whom have that extra bit of energy to vol-

unteer for the challenge. Retention NCO's receive quarterly retention training but it takes a visit from Sgt 1st Class Lisa Lambertson and Sgt 1st Class Reginald Sampson, Recruiting and Retention School, Fort Jackson, SC to bring them up to speed on the hectic world of retention. These senior NCO's travel post to post, training Company

and Battalion level Re-up NCO's on the latest retention techniques and regulations. They make one stop a year to ensure that retention NCO's are up to speed on the constantly changing regulations and to reinforce the quarterly training they receive. "The class is awesome," said Sgt Brent Koenig, Headquarters

and Headquarters Troop. "It has a lot of useful information on retention and leadership and also helps dismiss a lot of myths out there about reenlistment." By graduation day these NCO's have better knowledge on everything from determining reenlistment options to conducting retention interviews, for an Army of one.

Stryker, from Pg 1

be deployed by C-130 aircraft and be combat capable upon arrival in any contingency area.

The vehicles have robust armor protection, can sustain speeds of 60 miles-per-hour, have parts commonality and self-recovery abilities and also have a central tire inflation system.

The Infantry Carrier Vehicle carries a nine-man infantry squad and a crew of two and has a Remote Weapon Station with an M2 .50 caliber machine gun or MK19, 40 mm grenade launcher.

Capt Aaron Bazin, 2nd Squadron, Anti-tank Company, got first hand knowledge of the complexities involved in facing the Stryker on the battlefield during Millenium Challenge 02.

Bazin attended the Round table press conference at the Pentagon on Oct 15.

During this Bazin was able to share his experiences with others regarding the Stryker and its capabilities.

Media present were ABC, NBC, CBS, The Washington Post, Jane's Magazine, and other print media.

"I was able to tell the media my experiences and knowledge from a battlefield perspective.

I felt very prepared for the conference because of the After Action Review process and briefing process that the OPFOR commanders execute on a monthly basis," Bazin said.

Bazin's experience with the Stryker includes two battles on the National Training Center Battlefield and he has a very positive opinion

of the Stryker.

According to Bazin, it appeared to be a very capable Armored Personnel Carrier.

He mentioned that it was very mobile and was able to surmount a 1,200 foot mountain that HUMVEE's could not climb.

"Overall, to me the mobility, low noise, comfort, and heavy weapons support, was designed to support the infantryman in the back, not the other way around," Bazin said.

"It gets the infantry soldier to the fight in a way that is new and in doing so has created a capability and potentially a new way of fighting for the Army," he added.

The Stryker now makes the OPFOR soldiers take a look at how they fight when they engage the vehicle.

"It made us consider traditionally dismounted avenues of approach as mounted avenues for the Stryker, because of its outstanding mobility and stealth," Bazin said.

"During subsequent battles we had to consider a 360 degree fight, ones not necessarily tied to the numerous trail networks here at the NTC."

"It was much more difficult to detect because of the low noise and low dust signature compared to the M2 and M1," he added.

"It will change the way we look at BLUEFOR courses of action during our Military Decision Making Process when we fight the Stryker again.

It will not change the way we train but it did cause us to change the way we fight," Bazin said.

But despite the changes the OPFOR soldiers adjusted very

quickly.

"My soldiers adapted rapidly during the fight and were successful in facilitating a good training event by killing as many of them as possible.

I was impressed at how well the Outlaw's fought as light infantry, because it was different than our traditionally mounted role," Bazin said.

Bazin also had a chance to hear other commanders experiences with the vehicle as well as development and fielding issues.

Some points that he learned were that the Stryker has been developed in record time and the Army has funded the project itself by cutting dollars from the current budget.

This has cut the time of fielding from around ten years to less than two.

Also, the Stryker has gotten to the soldiers quicker and the Army is listening to the soldiers to make improvements and making them on the spot instead of making changes after the equipment has been in the hands of soldiers for years.

The Stryker is fully deployable from a C-130 and the soldiers can prepare the Stryker for combat operations in less than 10 minutes from the C-130 landing.

"It was a great conference I got a chance to express my views and learn a lot about a vehicle that will become part of our Army," Bazin said.

"After leaving the press conference and getting first hand experience with the Stryker, it was apparent to me that the Stryker and vehicles like it are the future of the Army," he added.

Soldier to compete in Goodwill Games

By Spc.
Charles W estmoreland

When people think of martial artists, usually the first people who come to mind are the big muscular, intimidating types like Jean-Claude Van Damme or Bruce Lee. With a laid-back attitude, friendly demeanor to all, and a 5-foot 10-inch body frame carrying just over 150 pounds, Spc. Jason Cassatt, 25, training noncommissioned officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, doesn't fit the mold of those types of martial artists. But then again, looks can be deceiving.

Cassatt got involved in martial arts when he was bored as a child and was looking for something to do to occupy his time. He thought it was something that looked fun and something he thought he would want to do. Although Cassatt has been both a student and instructor of Kempo and Wushu (forms of Kung Fu) for 15 years, it wasn't until last year when he first started competing in tournaments. He began to compete to see how far he had come in his skills and to see where he would place among others who had the same interests.

Since then he has won numer-

ous accolades for his performance, but the pinnacle was earlier this month when he was selected to be part of Team America and represent the United States at the 2003 World "Goodwill" Martial Arts Games in the Caribbean this April.

Prior to leaving his home in Pennsylvania and trading in his

Cassatt said he was greeted by a stranger holding a certificate.

"After I placed first, Mr. Bruce Smith, the Head Coach of Team America, walked over to me, shook my hand, and told me congratulations as he handed me a certificate of appointment to Team America," Cassatt said. "I couldn't

believe it was happening because this was my first tournament on the west coast."

Despite a hectic work schedule, Cassatt said he spends even more of his free time training now than before the tournament.

"Due to work I could only train a few days a week but now I need to train at least five days a week for a

couple hours each day," he said.

A second place finish in both the weapons and fighting division at the Goodwill Games will earn Cassatt the opportunity to compete for a seat on the U.S. Olympic Martial Arts Team, but Cassatt says he will travel down that road when it comes, for now he is focused on the challenge in front of him.

"Countries are responding to this event by offering their best athletes to compete so I take my training very seriously," Cassatt said. "I want to come back to the United States as a medalist."

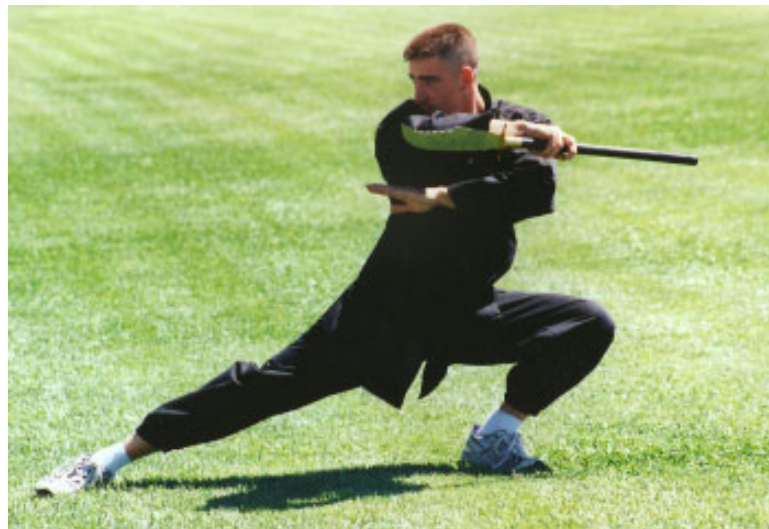


Photo by Sgt. David Vanderbeek

Spc. Jason Cassatt practices his moves in preparation for the goodwill games.

Army Reserve status for that of Active Duty, Cassatt was ranked 10th Nationwide in his division. After completing the transition to his new lifestyle, Cassatt quickly started training again in nearby Barstow at Mendez Martial Arts. Several months later he entered into the Las Vegas Legacy International Martial Arts Championship.

At the tournament, Cassatt placed first out of 35 competitors in the Weapons Division and second in fighting.

After competing with weapons, where he was judged on his form, style, grace and balance,

Around the A R M Y

War trophies can be dangerous, illegal

By Spc.

Randy Randolph

Fort Bragg Paraglide

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (Army News Service, Nov. 1, 2002) — Throughout history, soldiers serving overseas have returned home with souvenirs and relics to remember their tours. Many war related items on display in museums were brought over by individual service members.

Although it is tempting for soldiers to bring back reminders of having served in a military campaign, there are strict guidelines regarding these trophies for troops participating in Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Different operations and areas of responsibility will have different rules on prohibited activity regarding souvenirs," said U.S. Army Special Operations Command Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, Lt. Col. Kevin Govern. "Aside from U.S. legal restrictions, there may be Department of Defense, unified command and combined or joint task force regulations and orders proscribing certain activities and allowing others."

It is important for soldiers to realize that with few exceptions, taking or retaining individual souvenirs or trophies is prohibited in Afghanistan under Combined Joint Task Force-180 guidelines, Govern said.

"This prohibition does not include the lawful acquisition of souvenirs that can be legally imported

into the United States," Govern said.

Soldiers should be careful when bringing personally acquired items back home because that property may have use for military intelligence or study, Govern said.

Private or public property may be seized during exercises or operations only on order of the commander, when based on military necessity, he said.

Soldiers are not allowed to bring weapons, munitions or military articles of equipment back to the United States if those items were not officially issued, Govern said. Shipping weapons outside of the Central Command area as personal property is a punishable Uniform Code of Military Justice offense.

"There is a very narrow waiver of this prohibition," Govern said. "Antique firearms and replicas legally obtained in Afghanistan manufactured in or before 1898 are allowed."

Govern said that service members interested in purchasing an antique firearm and importing it into the United States should obtain a copy of the partial waiver under general order 1A, dated June 25 from their servicing judge advocate.

Young soldiers who are deployed to foreign lands often try to acquire souvenirs so they can remember having served their country or to sell items to people who will never get a chance to leave the United States, Hutchings said.

Fayetteville's Airborne and Special Operations Museum Historian, Dr. John Duvall, said that although current regulations regarding what soldiers may bring back from OEF are very strict, it hasn't always been as difficult for individual soldiers to bring war trophies home.

Duvall encourages current and retired soldiers to bring weapons to museums. He said that explosive items and old rifles sitting in storage can be very dangerous.

"Any weapon from any war should be turned in or disposed of properly," Duvall said. "We all like a souvenir to show our involvement in a conflict, but what better place to turn these items in than a museum? Having something associated with the battles our soldiers fought is important, it helps tell the story of what these soldiers did. These things really should be brought back through the proper channels."

Soldiers are encouraged to follow proper guidelines concerning souvenirs because they might actually be bringing back contraband, Govern said.

He stressed that anyone violating Central Command or general order 1A guidelines will be punished under the UCMJ.

Soldiers with questions regarding what can be brought back to the United States from their individual areas of responsibility should contact a servicing judge advocate, military police customs office or the post office.